

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Corporate Services Manager and Community Services Manager

DATE: 25 May 2006

SUBJECT: Motueka Community Swimming Pool

PURPOSE

At its meeting of 11 May 2006, the Corporate Services Committee considered a staff report on the proposed Motueka pool complex and resolved

- a) **THAT the Corporate Services Committee reaffirms on behalf of Council, its intention to conduct a poll of rateable properties within the area defined in the attached rating map to determine support for a Motueka pool complex.**
- b) **THAT Corporate Services Manager brings back a draft poll, with input from the Motueka Community Pool Committee.**

This report responds to the draft poll requirements, with appropriate reference to the Local Electoral Act 2001 which details procedures to be followed where a poll on any issue is to be conducted.

INTRODUCTION

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires that in the case of a poll, the following process must be observed. In noting these requirements, I have included suggested dates for compliance for each matter commencing with a number of issues that we propose to resolve today.

1 June 2006 - today's Council meeting will:

- Set the question/s to be included in the poll
- Set the date for the poll
- Identify (confirm) the area over which the poll will be conducted
- State electoral system to be used – presumably FPP.
- State that it is a postal vote.
- Whether binding or not – consequences of each possible result of the poll or if non-binding – the Council's intentions in respect of each possible result.

10 June 2006 Public notice providing information from Council meeting and advising that the roll is open for inspection until 11 July 2006.

11 July 2006	Rolls close.
15 July 2006	Public notice of poll.
20 to 25 July 2006	Poll papers posted.
21 July - 11 August 2006	Special voting period / roll scrutiny.
Friday 11 August 2006	Polling closes.

DISCUSSION

At the Corporate Services Committee meeting on 11 May 2006, the following was agreed in discussion.

- 1 The area over which the poll will be conducted will include all of the Motueka Ward, together with identified areas of Moutere/Waimea Ward – these were referred to as the blue shaded area in the map attached to the staff report for the meeting of 11 May 2006.
- 2 The poll will be conducted in such a way that allows separate counting of properties within the Motueka Ward and those in the Moutere/Waimea Ward.
- 3 An information brochure will be prepared detailing those costs and options referred to in previous staff reports and in the consultant reports prepared in October 2005 and April 2006.
- 4 Voting papers will be forwarded to the ratepayer identified for each property. Where a ratepayer owns more than one property, they will receive voting papers equivalent to the number of properties that they own.

CONSIDERATION

In reference to those issues that must be confirmed at today's meeting,

a) Question/s

It is proposed that the voting paper contains one question only which will ask *“Do you support the establishment of a community pool in Motueka which will require you to pay an annual operating rate of approximately \$23 on each rating assessment?”*

This is an all-inclusive question which eliminates the philosophy of “yes I support in principle but I don't want to pay”.

In the staff report to Corporate Services Committee for the meeting of 11 May 2006, staff identified an approximate operating rate of \$22, but noted that this is based on costs and revenue prepared in today's dollars. If we assume that the complex is, say, two years away from operation, we will need to inflation-adjust that figure, say \$23.

b) Date for the Poll

Earlier in this report we have suggested dates for posting of the poll papers and for the period of 21 July 2006 to 11 August 2006 to be designated as the voting period.

c) Identify area of poll

This was agreed at the Corporate Services Committee meeting of 11 May 2006. A larger map will be provided at today's meeting in order that Councillors can appreciate the specific boundaries referred to in the Moutere/Waimea Ward.

d) Electoral System

It is Council practice to conduct elections under the "first past the post" system. There is no reason to suggest an alternative system for the proposed poll on the Motueka pool complex.

e) Postal Vote

Again, it is normal Council practice to use a postal voting system. There is no reason to suggest an alternative system for the proposed poll on the Motueka pool complex.

f) Whether binding or not

Council must determine the appropriate percentage of votes that it will acknowledge as being a clear indication over the entire polling area and that the outcome of the vote will formally determine how the project will be pursued.

It is recommended that a majority of 60% in favour of the project over the entire polling area will represent a clear indication of the public's view of the project and that the outcome will be binding. If the vote exceeds 60% it is acknowledged that the next stage of the project will then be subject to the public fundraising requirements identified in the community facility rate criteria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That in respect to the proposed poll for the Motueka swimming pool complex, Council resolves:

- a) that the voting paper contains one paper only which will ask "*Do you support the establishment of a community pool in Motueka which will require you to pay an annual operating rate of approximately \$23 on each rating assessment?*"**
- b) that the period of 21 July 2006 to 11 August 2006 to be designated as the voting period.**

- c) That the area over which the poll will be conducted is that which has been designated as the blue shaded area on the map attached to the staff report dated 11 May 2006.**
- d) That the poll be conducted in such a way that results specific to the Motueka Ward and to those parts of the Moutere/Waimea Ward can be separately reported.**
- e) That the poll be conducted using the “first past the post” system.**
- f) That the poll be a postal vote.**
- g) That a majority of 60% in favour of the project over the entire polling area will represent a clear indication of the public’s view of the project and that the outcome will be binding on Council and will acknowledge community facility rate criteria.**

David Ward
Corporate Services Manager

Lloyd Kennedy
Community Services Manager